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# FYI - IPCDN terminology

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INTERNET-DRAFT IPCDN Terms of Reference

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Upstream           The set of frequencies used to send data from a sub-  
\*\*\*\*\*           scriber to the headend.

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Downstream        The set of frequencies used to send data from a headend  
\*\*\*\*\*           to a subscriber.

Subsplit           A frequency allocation plan where 5-42 MHz is used for  
                  upstream data and 50+MHz is used for downstream data.

Midsplit           A frequency allocation plan where 5-108 MHz is used for  
                  upstream data and 178+ is used for downstream data.

Cable Modem        Any device which modulates and demodulates digital data  
                  onto a CATV plant.

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Headend            Central distribution point for a CATV system. Video sig-  
\*\*\*\*\*           nals are received here from satellite (either co-located  
                  or remoted), frequency converted to the appropriate chan-  
                  nels, combined with locally originate signals, and  
                  rebroadcast onto the HFC plant. For a CATV data system,  
                  the headend is the typical place to link between the HFC  
                  system and any external data networks.

Distribution Hub    A smaller or remote headend distribution point for a  
                  CATV system. Video signals are received here from  
                  another site (headend), and redistributed. Sometimes a  
                  small number of locally originated signals are added.  
                  Such signals might be city information channels, HFC  
                  cable modem signals or the like.

Optical Node        A device used to convert broadband RF (radio frequency,  
                  e.g. television signals) to/from a fiber optic signal.

Fiber Node          Also "Node". An optical node located in the outside  
                  plant distribution system which terminates the fiber  
                  based downstream signal as an electrical signal onto a  
                  coaxial RF cable. Each fiber node is defined to support  
                  a certain service area, either defined by number of homes  
                  passed, or total amplifier cascade (# of active amplif-  
                  iers in the longest line from the node to the end of the  
                  line.)

Trunk Line          A CATV "backbone" coaxial cable. This runs from an Opti-  
                  cal Node and through a specific neighborhood or serving  
                  area.

Branch Line      Also "Feeder Cable". A coax cable which runs from a trunk line to a subscriber drop point.

M. StJohns

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Tap                A passive device which divides the signal between the trunk or feeder lines and splits the signal into ports for subscriber drop access.

Drop              A subscriber access point. From the tap to the home and the actual coax connection and wiring in the subscribers home.

Amplifier         Amplifiers are used on coaxial segments of a CATV plant to restore signal levels lost due to attenuation through distance. Unfortunately amplifiers amplify noise as well as signal.

Channel           A specific frequency allocation and bandwidth. Downstream channels used for television in the US are 6MHz wide (NTSC). International systems such as PAL and SECAM use 8Mhz wide channels.

CATV              Originally Community Antenna Television. Now used to refer to any cable (coax/fiber) based system provision of television services.

Homes Passed     The number of homes or offices potentially servicable by a cable system either on a per node or per system basis.

Telephony ReturnA variant of a cable data system where the return path from the subscriber cable modem goes via a dialup (or ISDN) connection instead of over an upstream channel.

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